THE PULSE

News of the
New England Deaconess Hospital Employees

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DR. COOK ELECTED NINTH PRESIDENT OF M. H. A.

At the 16th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Hospital Association, Dr. Warren F. Cook was elected president for the current year. Long an active member of the State Association, Dr. Cook has held a number of offices, serving as Treasurer for the last fifteen years.

This year the meeting differed from others in that it was not held in conjunction with the New England Hospital Association Conference. It was felt that in this way there might be a greater concentration of thought and effort on the problems facing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If the attendance is any indication, it is clear that the decision to hold an independent meeting was a wise one.

There was a full and interesting agenda for the all-day session. The morning was devoted largely to Association business. In the afternoon, a panel discussion was held on the question: "are Hospitals Practicing Medicine?" The Chairman and Co-ordinator, Charles F. Wilinsky, M. D., President-elect of the American Hospital Association and Director of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, introduced the speakers. Dr. Leland S. McKittrick, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Palmer Memorial Staff, furnished the viewpoint of the physician.

The other speakers on the panel represented the various groups most directly concerned with this question. In delivering the summary, George Bugbee, Executive Director of the American Hospital Association, commended the speakers on their presentations and expressed his conviction that the assembly would undoubtedly draw their own conclusions with greater assurance as a result of the broad perspective which the panel had furnished during the afternoon session.

In the evening, following the dinner which was held in the Georgian Room of the Statler, Dr. Norbert A. Wilhelm, retiring president of the Massachusetts Hospital Association, and Director of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, was the principal speaker. His subject, "The Hospital in Great Britain Today," was one of absorbing interest. Dr. Wilhelm had spent several weeks in the United Kingdom last year studying the implementation of socialized medicine there, and his report, which was wholly impartial, furnished information on the system which is not normally available.

The meeting was a great success. We at the Deaconess Hospital take pride in Dr. Cook's election, for it is an indication of the high esteem in which he is held. It is an interesting coincidence that this honor should be conferred just after Dr. Cook's completion of twenty years' service here at the Deaconess.

NOTICE

For the convenience of hospital employees, our auditors will be here toward the end of this month to give free assistance to those wishing it in computing their income taxes. Income tax forms may now be obtained from Mr. Lowry or from Miss Adams. Each department will receive a notification as to the date and hours its employees may see the auditors.

NUMBER NINE

About five months ago, the Hospital acquired the house and property at 9 Autumn Street and since then a major transformation has taken place. For many years, this little house was used by the United Shoe Machinery Company for manufacturing orthopedic shoes. The house was filled with heavy machinery, including metal-working lathes, heavy presses, molds, etc. The largest unit, the one which caused us the greatest difficulty, was an industrial x-ray machine. It was located on the ground floor and reached about a foot and a half above the normal ceiling level, thus necessitating the construction of an 18-inch stage in the room above on the second floor.

The house was acquired by the Hospital in order to provide living quarters for our regular Operating Room nurses, and in the short space of three months the entire house has been remodelled and modernized. Who did it? It was done almost entirely by our own Maintenance Department under the supervision of Mr. Sabine. This, briefly, was what they did:

All the worn out and useless parts were removed, including walls, doors, window frames and floors, where necessary; structural changes in some of the rooms were made; new floors, walls and windows were put in, including several large and attractive bay windows. The heating plant was converted to gas; a complete kitchen was installed; and, the ceiling in that ground floor room was lowered to its original level. These were some of the larger items in the conversion of this house. But, there were more.

After the rooms were reconstructed, the electrical wiring throughout the house had to be converted from industrial to domestic power. Our maintenance men did this, too. Also, the existing bathrooms were entirely renovated and one wholly new one was built. The house was painted throughout and it is doubtful that even a professional interior decorator would have succeeded in achieving a more pleasing effect in the selection of a color scheme.

The results of the labors of our maintenance men in this case are manifold. We can now provide our "O. R." girls with a place to live. By living, we mean it is a house — a new one — which is for them only; they can cook all their meals there; if they care to do so; they have a comfortable place in which to entertain their friends; it is right next to the Hospital but, once in the house, you seem miles away. In short, a home has been built for them.

To get back for a moment to the men who did this job. Hardly any of us knew that this undertaking was afoot. Certainly, none of us missed the men, for everything kept right on going here at the Hospital. The number of "breakdowns" during this period was normal and each was repaired with customary dispatch by the Maintenance Department. That means simply that these men continued their usual duties and at the same time worked on the new house — so adroitly, in fact, that the entire project was approved by the Building Inspector. The only sizeable item which was done by outsiders was the erection of the fire escape. With its completion, we

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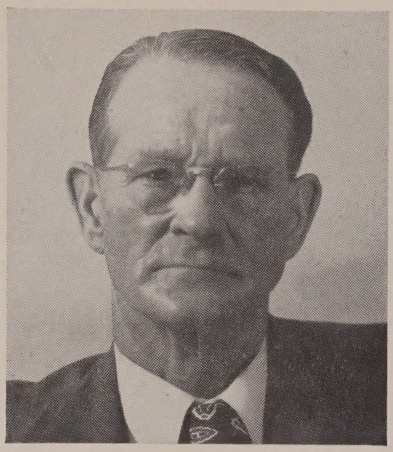
TRAFFIC LIGHTS

On Monday morning, January 30th, at ten o'clock, a small group assembled at the corner of Deaconess Road and Brookline Avenue for a long-awaited ceremony — the turning-on of the new traffic lights. Just when we would finally get them, if at all, had long been a matter of speculation among the hospital employees, who have had to wait many long minutes to cross Brookline Avenue, and for self-preservation have been forced to become most adept at dodging traffic there. We had watched with interest the breaking of the ground and finally the appearance on all four corners of the familiar traffic lights; now at last had come the time when, by pressing a button to flash the red-yellow pedestrian signal, we could cross the street in safety. To make the occasion official, Boston Traffic Commissioner William Arthur Reilly was present, and showed Dr. Cook the inner workings and switches of the control box. Everyone having to cross Brookline Avenue at this point is strongly urged to make use of this push-button system. That is what it's for.

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTES

(The First of a Series)

Tips on the COMMON COLD
1 When you have a cold
COVER IT UP!
2 Stay away from people who COUGH OR SNEEZE CARELESSLY
3 Use only clean eating and drinking utensils
DON'T SHARE
towels, spoons or cups
4 ALWAYS wash your hands before eating or handling food
5 EAT properly
Get enough REST!
6 GUARD against CHILLS



PAT SULLIVAN

Has a raging blizzard made the walks impassable? Do the sun porches and hospital corridors need sweeping? Has a heavy rain smudged our first-floor windows? Or does a scorched plot of grass need re-seeding? Maybe so, but these problems have always been taken care of speedily and efficiently in the twenty years Pat Sullivan has been chief of our ground crew. And Pat goes about his work so quietly that more often than not we are unaware that he may have arrived at work at 5 a. m. or may have given up a Sunday to see that nothing was overlooked in keeping up the hospital grounds.

Pat came to the Deaconess as a young man, five years after he had left his native Ireland. Since then he has seen many changes in the hospital, for at that time only the Deaconess building and half of Harris Hall existed. The addition of Palmer and Baker, the nurses' residences, the Pilgrim Road buildings, and the Longwood Avenue parking lot has increased Pat's work to such an extent that he now has a regular assistant in the winter, and three or four men to help him the rest of the year. They are responsible for keeping the sidewalks shoveled and swept, for cutting the grass, for washing the first floor windows, for caring for the sun-porches and corridors, and for all pruning and trimming.

The day we tried to interview Pat, he was too busy moving furniture to give much information about himself, but the people who work with him and know him best have nothing but kind words for him. Though he is a reticent man, and keeps to himself much of the time, there is no one among his associates who does not consider him the "salt of the earth." He is even-tempered, and though of a generally serious nature, has a keen sense of humor, as one might expect from his Irish heritage. He can always be depended upon to carry out his duties, which he does quietly and efficiently, and this faithfulness to his job makes him more than deserving of the 25-year pin with which he was presented at the last Christmas party.

Pat has a room not far from the hospital, and in his off-hours he enjoys books and movies, but most of all, sports. He is looking forward to the baseball season with great enthusiasm. He also likes hockey, football, and bowling. In the days when the Harris Hall grounds were the scene of horseshoe tournaments, Pat was the champion, and he would like to see these games started again this spring. Maine is an ideal vacation spot for Pat, for here he can be near the beach and the water he is so fond of, and he can fish to his heart's content.

We are fortunate to have had Pat's services for so long, and are looking forward to having him with us for many years to come.

SUGGESTION AWARD

The $5 award for the best suggestion of the month goes to John Keefe, of Purchasing. He has submitted a valuable idea about the parking lot, which is to extend the pavement to Pilgrim Road, thus making the way smoother to the street.

NURSING DEPARTMENT

The thing giving cause for most satisfaction in the Nursing School Department this month is the beginning of work toward installation of new plumbing equipment in Harris Hall. It has been a long-felt need, and we are grateful that the necessity is being met. We hope Dr. Brownlee will not have too many hoarse throats to treat as the result of our yelling above the noise of the workmen.

We are glad to see Miss Hankinson back as Assistant Superintendent of Nurses, after a year's leave of absence to attend classes at Boston University. We appreciate the fine job Miss Howland has done in taking over Miss Hankinson's responsibilities, but we know how happy she is to return to Harris Hall as a Nursing Arts Instructor again!

Misses Barbara Broadbent, Clinical Instructor, Virginia Whitney, '46 Jr., Barbara Alden, '49 Sr., and Winifred Caffelle, '50 Sr., were all hospitalized in January. Let us hope that by this time they are well enough to resume their various activities. Miss Nanny Peterson is now able to get about in a wheel chair. They say she is a very satisfactory patient, but that her patience is being sorely tried!

Our new class (1953 Seniors) registered on February 3rd at Simmons College for their semester of Pre-Nursing courses. Classes began Monday, February 6th.

The students in the September 1949 Class (1952 Juniors) finished the Simmons examinations, and came on full-time ward duty on Wednesday, February 1st. Now begins the grind to earn that Cap and bib.

News of Our Alumnae

Mrs. Henry C. Larrabee, (Jane Marshall, '47 Sr.) is doing public health work at South Portland, Maine.

Miss Irene Furbush, '48 Sr., is in the Operating Room at Thayer Hospital, Waterville, Maine.

Mrs. E. W. Dunlop, (Hope Hardy, '46 Jr.), 4621 North 9th Street, Phoenix, Arizona, is eager to have news of her classmates.

Mrs. Albert J. Wegmann, (Nancy Poland, '48 Jr.), 3321 Powelton Avenue, Philadelphia 4, Pa., is still on the "followed" list, since her bout last summer with typhoid fever. Through her own bitter experience she can tell you the possible consequences of not taking those typhoid "shots" which will be coming up soon.

Mrs. F. S. Veith, (Cornelia Harrigan, '47 Sr.), 160 Gordonhurst Avenue, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, writes that she would like to be remembered "to everyone around Deaconess." She is working in the office of an Upper Montclair pediatrician.

Miss Olivia Raymond, '49 Sr., left for England with the group who were to attend the convention in Sweden, but decided to extend her stay a little longer. She is now working in a London hospital, and living with friends at 47 Hamilton Terrace, London, N. W. 8.

Seven of our January 1950 Graduating Class are already at work in Deaconess. They are: Misses Caffelle, Critch, Fish, MacKenzie, MacNeill, Robbins, and Sherer. All our best wishes to them!

Number Nine

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secured the "O. K." of the Fire Inspector. The job took just about three months and our nurses started moving in about the middle of December.

This is just one job done well by one Department. It raises some questions: What will they do next? What other big jobs are being done RIGHT NOW by other Departments? Just how much do we know of what's going on right under our very noses here at the Deaconess?

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

Surgery

We were glad to have the opportunity to inspect Nine Autumn Street when the girls who live there invited all the hospital departments to their housewarming tea. The house is certainly most tastefully decorated. "Hammie" and Miss Brown poured, and their guests enjoyed the afternoon immensely.

Jeanne Barker was married on February 4th to Robert Hurley, of Boston. On the evening of January 30th a surprise miscellaneous shower was held for her at 9 Autumn Street. We extend our best wishes to them both.

We are glad to have Barbara (Heselton) Colby, a recent Deaconess graduate, join our department. Formerly she had been in the Nursing Department.

We all hope that Mrs. Celander and Mrs. O'Day are feeling better after their stay here in the hospital.

Chemistry Laboratory

Barbara Zeitler's engagement to J. Russell Golner, of New York, was recently announced. Mr. Golner is working toward his degree at Columbia.

Susan Nardi has become engaged to Eugene E. Lang, Jr., of Brighton.

We were pleased to hear of Lois Read's marriage last November to E. Russell Simmons, of Mansfield, but we are sorry she feels she must leave our department to give her undivided attention to household duties.

Engineering

It is with regret that we report Mr. Warren Smith is quite a sick man. We hope it is nothing serious, and all of us wish him a speedy recovery.

Purchasing

The announcement of Kay O'Leary's engagement last month was of particular interest to two departments, for her fiance is John Karman, of Pharmacy. Plans for the wedding are still indefinite.

Social Service

Carolyn West has announced that her marriage to George W. Turner will take place on February 14th in Brookline. After their honeymoon, Carolyn plans to resume her work here at the hospital.

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

Administration
John L. Rowbotham, M.D.
Rudolph Samuelson

Dietary
John H. Smith, Jr.

Housekeeping
Joseph F. Derrane
Delia A. Fischer
Susanna Forrester

Laundry
Catherine F. Carroll
Mary E. McDonald

Maintenance
Eulan P. Cameron

Nursing
Winifred A. Caffelle
Adriana Caio
Roberta J. Critch
Margaret J. Fish
Doris A. MacKenzie
Edna J. MacNeill
Ruth A. Robbins
Vera L. Sherer

Pathology
Herbert L. Bradley
Anna W. Loh

Surgery
Jane M. Dryden

X-ray
Gwendolyn J. Montgomery

PULSE REPORTERS

Under Supervision of Public Relations Department

Illustrator ..... Marjorie Pond
Administration ..... Catherine Galvin
Admitting ..... Josephine Magliocca
Blood Bank ..... Virginia Hunt
Chemistry ..... Constance Sellman
Dietary ..... Marjorie Lebeau
Engineering ..... Herbert Robinson
Hostesses ..... Catherine Waters
Housekeeping ..... Josephine Preston
Laundry ..... Rita Dennehy
Nursing ..... Helen Logan
Pathology ..... Kathryn Haley
Pharmacy ..... John Karman
Purchasing ..... John Keefe
Record Rooms ..... Norma Whited
Social Service ..... Judith Hurwitz
Solution Room ..... Dorothy Blanchard
Surgery ..... Harriet Lovett
Volunteer Service ..... Pamela Whitney
X-ray ..... Lois Mosher